



# FACT SHEET

## Module 7

## Railroad Safety

### A FEW TIPS TO HELP KEEP TRAGEDY OFF OF THE TRACKS:



**Never trespass** on railroad property. Railroad tracks, yards and equipment are private property and trespassers are subject to arrest and fines.

**Do not walk on or fish off of railroad bridges.** Do not hunt, fish or bungee jump from railroad trestles. There aren't any sidewalks on the bridges. You have two choices: get hit by the train or jump off of the bridge. The same is true for railway tunnels. The clearance between the train and the tunnel wall is generally only a few inches. There is never enough room for a person and a train.

**Do not ride motorcycles or off-road vehicles down or alongside the tracks.** The noise of the vehicle engine may keep the driver from hearing oncoming trains.

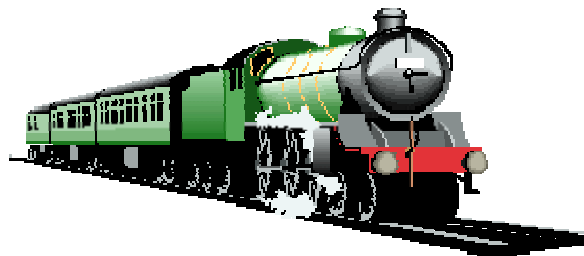
**Never play on the tracks or in the railroad yards.** Railroad cars can move suddenly and unexpectedly injuring trespassers.

**Never get into a railroad car.** While "hoboing" looks pretty good in the movies, boxcars do not have inside door handles. Once you are in and the door slides closed, you must wait until someone from the outside finds you and lets you out. Sometimes boxcars sit for weeks or even months without anyone ever coming near them.

**Never "hop off" a train** while it is moving. Trains move about 75mph. Jumping from a moving train will result in death or serious injury.

**Never throw anything at the train.** Severe injuries and even deaths have occurred resulting from objects thrown at trains. In addition to injuring people on the train there is also the danger that things thrown will bounce off and come flying back injuring the thrower or an innocent bystander.

**Always expect a train!** Trains do not run on set schedules and do appear out of nowhere.



**Never drive around lowered gates** – it's illegal and deadly. If you suspect a signal is malfunctioning, call the 1-800 number posted on or near the crossing signal or your local law enforcement agency.

**Never race a train to the crossing** – even if you tie, you lose.

**Do not get trapped on the tracks.** Only proceed through a highway-rail grade crossing if you are sure you can

completely clear the crossing without stopping. Remember, the train is three feet wider than the tracks on both sides.

If your vehicle stalls on a crossing, immediately **get everyone out and far away** from the tracks. (Move away from the tracks in the direction from which the train is approaching.) Call your local law enforcement agency for assistance.

At a multiple track crossing waiting for a train to pass, **watch out for a second train** on the other tracks, approaching in either direction.

Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. That's at least 18 football fields!

Do not be fooled by the optical illusion – **the train you see is closer and faster moving than you think**. If you see a train approaching, wait for it to go by before you proceed across the tracks.

**EXPECT A TRAIN!** Freight trains do not follow set schedules.



**ALWAYS**

## **CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS**

**18-6006. INJURING RAILROAD PROPERTY.** Every person who maliciously removes, displaces, injures, or in any way interferes with, or changes, or destroys, any part of any railroad property, whether for cars propelled by steam or any other motive power, or any track of any railroad, or any branch or branchway, switch, block or other signal or signaling device, turnout, bridge, viaduct, culvert, embankment, station house or other structure or fixture, or any part thereof attached to or connected with any railroad, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not exceeding ten (10) years, or by fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or by both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

**18-6009. PLACING OBSTRUCTIONS ON TRACKS.** Every person who maliciously places any obstruction upon the rails or track of any railroad, or of any switch, branch, branchway, or turnout connected with any railroad, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not exceeding five years (5), or in the county jail not less than six (6) months.

**18-6010. OBSTRUCTION OR INTERFERENCE WITH RAILROAD.** Any person or persons who shall willfully or maliciously place any obstruction on any railroad track or roadbed, or street car track in this state, or who shall loosen, tear up, remove or misplace any rail, switch, frog, guard rail, cattle guard, or any part of such railroad track or roadbed or street car track, or who shall tamper with or molest any such road, roadbed or track, or who shall destroy or damage any locomotive, motor or car on said track, or who shall otherwise interfere with the maintenance or operation of such road so as to endanger the safety of any train, car, motor or engine, or so as to endanger or injure any passenger or person riding thereon, or being about the same, shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for any term not exceeding twenty (20) years nor less than five (5) years.

**18-6011. OBSTRUCTION OR INTERFERENCE WITH RAILROAD -- ACT CAUSING DEATH.** Any person or persons who shall, within this state, willfully or maliciously place any obstruction upon any railroad track or roadbed or street car track, or shall misplace, remove, obstruct, detach, damage or destroy any rail, switch, frog, guard rail, cattle guard, or any other part of such railroad track or roadbed or street car track, or who shall otherwise interfere with the maintenance and operation of such road, thereby causing the death of any person, whether passenger or employee of such railroad, or street railway, or otherwise, shall, upon conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a felony and be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term not less than five (5) years and which may extend to the natural life of such person so found guilty, or may be tried and punished for murder. But this section shall not in any way lessen the liability of the railroad company where a wreck may hereafter occur in the state of Montana.